

university's foundations. He was steadfast in ensuring scholarships were available at numerous Florida institutions to help students attending college to use the opportunity to fulfill their dreams.

My wife Jeanette and I express our heartfelt condolences to his children and grandchildren on the loss of an important leader and great Floridian. May God bless his family during this time of sorrow.●

TRIBUTE TO SHERYL AVERY

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I honor Sheryl Avery, the Liberty County Teacher of the Year from Liberty County High School in Bristol, FL.

Sheryl believes that being a teacher means understanding her students will eventually become leaders of our society. Her lifelong goal is to seek opportunities to change the world, which she believes can be done from the classroom.

Sheryl believes that writing is an important skill. It is a skill that all students need to know, not just for school, but for when they join the workforce. She is a published author with three works in print and enjoys writing in her spare time.

Sheryl teaches English for ninth and tenth graders at Liberty County High School. She has worked as an educator for 21 years, with 19 years in the Liberty County School System. She earned her bachelor's degree in English and ESOL from Armstrong Atlantic State University, her master's degree in curriculum and instruction from Georgia Southern University, and is currently studying for her doctorate degree in theology from South University.

I extend my best wishes to Sheryl on her more than two decades of teaching students. I look forward to hearing of her continued good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO KERRIANNE EDWARDS

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Kerrianne Edwards, the Jackson County Teacher of the Year from Sneads Elementary School in Sneads, FL.

Kerrianne comes from a family of teachers. Her parents were teachers and played a pivotal role in encouraging her to make the profession her career. Kerrianne teaches at the same elementary school that she attended, and her classroom is located directly across from Sherry Faircloth, the same first grade teacher that taught her and her son. She considers Mrs. Faircloth an excellent role model and continues to teach her long after she was her student.

Kerrianne is a first grade teacher at Sneads Elementary School and has been a teacher for 28 years. She previously was a librarian, K-3 teacher, and a second grade teacher at Chat-

tahoochee Elementary School and was named its Teacher of the Year in 2000.

I offer my sincere gratitude to Kerrianne and look forward to hearing of her continued good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO TONIE GARCIA

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I am pleased to recognize Tonie Garcia, the Glades County Teacher of the Year from West Glades School in LaBelle, FL.

Tonie knew she wanted to be a teacher from a young age, crediting God for placing a love for teaching in her heart. She brings a positive attitude and patience to her classroom each day, knowing that some of her students see her more than they see their parents.

Tonie considers it her job to love and cheer for her students, wipe away their tears, and open the doors of learning to them. She does not know what her students go through before coming to class each day, so she shows them kindness and instills in them a "never give up" attitude, no matter how challenging the day may be for them.

Tonie is a kindergarten teacher at West Glades School. She is a graduate of Palm Beach Atlantic University and credits its school of education and behavioral studies for preparing her to be a teacher. She previously taught in kindergarten classrooms at Frontier Elementary School and Jupiter Christian School.

I offer my sincere gratitude to Tonie and look forward to hearing of her continued good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO LESLIE HARN

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Leslie J. Harn, the Hendry County Teacher of the Year from Clewiston High School in Clewiston, FL.

Leslie's goal each day is to make his classroom one where students enjoy learning. He spends the school day helping students to better understand science and other challenges that life has thrown at them. Leslie credits his seventh grade science teacher, Mr. Bowdler, with having a huge impact on him and hopes to have the same effect on his students' lives.

Leslie's biggest inspiration for teaching comes from his faith and his family. His father was an orange grove manager, and his mother drove a school bus. Both instilled in him a strong work ethic and desire to help others whenever possible. In his family, three are educators, and the fourth is in college with plans to pursue education.

Leslie teaches biology at Clewiston High School and previously taught in Collier County. He and his wife are members of Caloosa Baptist Church and work to help families throughout the area.

I am grateful for Leslie's commitment to his students and extend my best wishes. I look forward to learning of his continued good work in his future endeavors.●

TRIBUTE TO MIRANDA HARWOOD

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Miranda Harwood, the Hillsborough County Teacher of the Year from Brooker Elementary School in Brandon, FL.

Miranda teaches fourth grade at Brooker Elementary School and considers this award the culmination of the educational career she began 14 years ago. Miranda wants her students to know that she cares about their education. Since she cannot know what burdens they are going through at home, she works to make sure school is a safe and caring place for them, whether they are in her classroom or with another teacher. She uses testing data to identify her students' strengths and weaknesses and builds her lesson plans to fit their individual needs.

Miranda uses humor and motivational activities to keep her students engaged throughout the school year. Her class votes on a Student of the Month and chooses rewards and consequences. She also hosts a Monday Math Club for her top students and afterschool sessions on Wednesdays and Thursdays for those below their grade level on State exams or on the bubble between passing and not passing.

I offer my sincere gratitude to Miranda for her good work and dedication to her students. I look forward to hearing of her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO VINCENT MILLER

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I am pleased to recognize Vincent Miller, the Polk County Teacher of the Year from Winter Haven High School in Winter Haven, FL.

Vincent believes as teachers enter their classrooms, they should ask themselves a few simple questions: What will they add to their students' lives? What class memories will students remember? How will they, themselves, be remembered by students?

He says teachers should be intentional with their approach to meeting students' needs, knowing students are more than just a score or a test; they are the future. Vincent credits his successes today to his former teachers for creating countless memories when he was a student. Being cast by one teacher for a school play changed his life, allowing him to travel the world and perform on cruise ships before becoming a teacher at his alma mater.

Vincent is a math teacher and the girls' basketball coach at Winter Haven High School. He also mentors students, provides afterschool tutoring lessons, hosts a back-to-school supplies event, and sponsors the Key Club and the Culture Club. Vincent holds a doctorate